GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:985
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2006
FOREST REVENUE VILLAGES
Baxla Shri Joachim

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some areas are categorized as `Forest Villages`and some as Revenue Villages` in the country;

(b) if so, the criteria followed therefor;

(c) the material impact of such conversions on the habitants of such villages;

(d) the details of forest villages as on December, 2005 in the country, State-wise; and

(e) the number of forest villages converted into revenue villages in the country, during the last three years, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) & (c) The forest villages were set up in remote and inaccessible forest areas of some States with a view to providing uninterrupted manpower for forestry operations. The Ministry of Environment and Forests issued guidelines dated 18.091990 for conversion of such forest villages into revenue villages. Forest villages get converted into revenue villages after de-notification of requisite forest land. The State Governments are required to submit proposals for conversion of such villages into revenue villages for approval of Central Government. The revenue villages fall within the jurisdiction of the revenue authorities of the respective State/Union Territory Governments whereas administration of forest villages rests with State Forest Department. On conversion of forest villages into revenue villages, the villagers are conferred heritable but inalienable rights over the land.

(d) As per the information available with the Central Government there are 2,690 number of forest villages in various States.The State-wise details are given in the Annexure.

(e) During last three years, 357 forest villages have been converted into revenue villages. This includes 234 forest villages in Madhya Pradesh, 112 forest villages in Gujarat and 11 forest villages in Uttaranchal.